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The Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit: Using Health and Wellness to Create New Urban Infrastructures

Nadia Anderson
Iowa State University, nanderso@iastate.edu

Courtney Long
Iowa State University, court7@iastate.edu

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The Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit: Using Health and Wellness to Create New Urban Infrastructures

Abstract
Poverty, obesity, and vacant land are characteristics of neighborhoods lacking adequate access to healthy, affordable food, frequently referred to as "food deserts" or "food swamps" (USDA, 2013). While small-scale local food efforts such as community gardens are often present in these areas, they are often isolated and not connected to systems including production, processing, and distribution. The Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit links these aspects of agricultural systems with underutilized spatial assets and local food efforts to create more comprehensive healthy food systems. This paper presents results from the first year of the Toolkit.

Disciplines
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cant differences between the two cases that should be considered in the planning and design of future housing environments. In Angell Town, an urban neighbourhood re-developed according to a comprehensive urban design strategy, the social behavior and interactions, sense of belonging to and the general satisfaction with the neighbourhood were significantly higher than those in Greater Leys, a low-density peri-urban neighbourhood developed without following an urban design strategy.

The Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit: Using Health and Wellness to Create New Urban Infrastructures

Nadia Anderson, nanderso@iastate.edu, (Iowa State University); Courtney Long, court7@iastate.edu, (Iowa State University)

Poverty, obesity, and vacant land are characteristics of neighborhoods lacking adequate access to healthy, affordable food, frequently referred to as "food deserts" or "food swamps" (USDA, 2013). While small-scale local food efforts such as community gardens are often present in these areas, they are often isolated and not connected to systems including production, processing, and distribution. The Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit links these aspects of agricultural systems with underutilized spatial assets and local food efforts to create more comprehensive healthy food systems. This paper presents results from the first year of the Toolkit. Working with three partner communities, the Toolkit team first identified the food needs and assets of each partner, documenting common characteristics and unique situations. We then mapped existing food programs and potential spatial assets such as underutilized institutional land, vacant lots, and commercial opportunities. We also partnered with an associated project to identify policy barriers and opportunities for local foods systems. The most significant finding from the project's first year was that while communities with a collective local food "culture" still needed more time than expected to set priorities, where this culture was absent competition between individual organizations became a significant barrier to participation and decision-making. The community with the largest number of well-established food systems organizations was expected to act most quickly but in fact struggled the most, requiring modifications to the role of the research team as well as the schedule for future partner communities. In the project's second year, we are developing designs for catalyst projects as starting points for comprehensive local food infrastructures. Based on the first year's results, we have developed application materials for three new community partners. We are also holding training workshops for local foods and community development professionals, creating a webinar, and tracking impacts from the first project phase.

Examining Demographic and Environmental Factors Associated With Changes in Sustainability Culture: Findings From a Longitudinal Study of Students at the University of Michigan

Robert Marans, marans@umich.edu, (University of Michigan); Noah Webster, njwebs@umich.edu, (University of Michigan); John Callewaert, jcallew@umich.edu, (University of Michigan)

Universities around the world are playing a leading role in addressing the important yet challenging task of bringing about a societal shift from a culture of consumerism toward a culture of sustainability. A culture of sustainability is defined as "a culture in which individuals are aware of major environmental (and social/economic) challenges, are behaving in sustainable ways, and are committed to a sustainable lifestyle for both the present and future" (Marans et al., 2010). This cultural transformation must accompany technological innovations if we are to address the threats to our planet brought about by climate change and resource depletion. While efforts are being made at universities in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America to introduce sustainability into education programs and promote a culture of sustainability through campus operations, little is being done to assess or evaluate the success of these initiatives. This paper briefly reviews efforts to change the culture of sustainability at the University of Michigan (U-M) and discusses an approach to measuring, monitoring, and mapping change from 2012 to 2017. The Sustainability Cultural Indicators Program (SCIP) is intended to inform U-M officials and others respon-